



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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January 27, 2005

Mr. Bill Vogler, Executive Director
Washington State Association of Counties
206 Tenth Avenue Southeast, Suite A
Olympia, Washington 98501

Mr. Stan Finklestein, Executive Director
Association of Washington Cities
1076 Franklin Street Southeast
Olympia, Washington 98501-1346

RE: Principles Governing State Agency Correspondence on Growth Management

Dear Mr. Vogler and Mr. Finklestein:

In response to a request from your members, we have developed principles that our agencies will use to provide comments on local growth management plans and development regulations. These principles have been developed cooperatively with state agencies and local government planning staff, with the help of your associations. They were developed during a series of meetings including state agency and local governments in the fall of 2004.

The principles recognize the shared responsibility between state and local government for implementation of the GMA and reflect our shared commitment to work together in this task. These principles are designed to ensure that our participation in the planning process is timely, helpful, and effective. They are also designed to minimize the possibility of conflicts arising from misunderstandings, and to ensure that our written correspondence occurs in the proper context. Although differing interpretations and legitimate disagreements will continue to exist, we hope these principles will provide a framework for helping to resolve those disagreements efficiently and for ensuring that disagreements are focused on the substance of the issue itself. We have instructed our staff to implement these principles and use them as a guide for working effectively with local governments.

The people of Washington look forward to a future where the economic vitality and growth of the state does not compromise the quality of our natural resources and the livability of our urban spaces. State and local governments have a shared responsibility to create this future.

Good planning decisions are an important part of realizing this future. Effective growth management plans facilitate decisions that protect the natural environment, manage the



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costs of providing needed public infrastructure, and ensure timely and fair permitting decisions. We recognize the vital partnership between state and local government in working together to develop good plans and make them a reality. We hope that state agencies and local governments will continue to maintain a cooperative relationship and that we will continue working together to implement the goals of growth management and to realize a bright future for our state.

Sincerely,



Juli Wilkerson, Director
Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development




Valoria Loveland, Director
Washington State Department of Agriculture



Linda Hoffman, Director
Washington State Department of Ecology



Dr. Jeffery P. Koenings, Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Mary Selecky, Secretary
Washington State Department of Health

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